

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, October 4, 2004

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, October 4, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Vice Chair Sandy Kane
Brian Rolston

Ann Bollinger
Terry Elvers
Richard Nemetz

Town Staff Present

John Wells
Calvin Grow
Nick Colonna
Mark McCartney

Citizens present

Kimberly Berkey
Ann Jones

Marcie Brown
Al Lewis

Craig Lane

1. *Introductions:* Liz Whiting welcomed Richard Nemetz, NW Quadrant representative, and the members introduced themselves and welcomed John Wells, newly-appointed Town Manager, and members of the public who, with the exception of Craig Lane, have been nominated for service on the Ad Hoc Meade Drive Neighborhood Advisory Group. (See item 10 below.)
2. *Minutes:* On **motion** by Sandy Kane, **seconded** by Terry Elvers, the **minutes of the August 30, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved** as presented.
3. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
4. *Smart Trailer and selective enforcement reports:* Mark McCartney reported that the Smart Trailer was deployed at 513 Beauregard Drive (17. mph average), midway on south bound Wilson Avenue (19 mph average), 600 block of Marshall Drive east bound (24 mph average).
5. *King Street enhanced speeding penalty:* Calvin Grow reported that the Town Council approved the add-on penalty for North King Street from North Street to Oakcrest Manor Drive. Calvin described the signage that will be installed, within the next two weeks, to mark the area, including flags, larger than required lettering, and “25 mph” in 6-foot high letters in the travel lanes.
6. *Speed study on Catoctin Circle SW:* Calvin Grow presented the results of follow-up speed studies on the stretch of Catoctin Circle between Dry Mill Road and South King Street. Results averaged 29 mph in both directions. However, when results were examined isolating the hours in which the reduced speed (15 mph) is in effect at arrival and departure times from the school, it became clear that average speeds consistently were 6 mph or higher over the limit in both directions throughout the day. Staff indicated that marking parking lanes to narrow the apparent travel-way was justified by the

results and could be implemented by Town staff without further approvals by Town authorities. On motion by Sandy Kane, seconded by Terry Elvers, Committee unanimously recommended marking parking lanes on Catoctin Circle S.W. from Crestwood Street to Belmont Place. Staff will also report back whether “school” is painted on the asphalt in both directions near Catoctin Elementary School.

7. *Dodona Manor parking issues:* Nick Colonna reported that the landscaping plan remains the only active application filed by Dodona Manor and by itself, will not trigger the necessity of an engineered site plan or a requirement for installing public improvements. Dodona representatives have talked about the possibility of constructing a bus pull-off from Market Street onto their property, but have submitted nothing. Liz Whiting questioned how Dodona qualifies as a grandfathered visitors’ center when they’ve never officially opened and how they can be bringing in busloads of people without having opened? Nick Colonna was going to check on this item and report back next month.
8. *Historic District signs on Rt. 15 north of Town limits:* Calvin Grow reported that the Town had not heard back from VDOT regarding signage changes along the approach from the north, to clarify N. King Street as the entry to the Historic District and the By-Pass as the route to food, fuel and sales. This item will remain on the agenda as a reminder to update the Committee when VDOT responds.
9. *LSTRC projects completed in FY ’04:* Calvin Grow reviewed the list of projects completed during the last fiscal year: imprinted crosswalks at (i) Meade Drive, SW at Hague Drive, SW, (ii) Meade Drive, SW at Greenway Drive, SW, (iii) Kincaid Boulevard, SE at Patrice Drive, SE and (iv) Santmyer Drive, SE at Tavistock Drive, SE; and fence extension on the Rt. 15 By-Pass from near Ft. Evans Road to Edwards Ferry Road, NE.
10. *Woodlea Manor, Greenway Farms and Bradfield Place (Country Club subdivision) citizen committee request from Town Council:* Liz Whiting indicated that the Town Council seemed to react favorably to the Committee’s suggested plan for developing a “Meade Drive Neighborhood Master Traffic-Calming Plan with the assistance of an ad hoc advisory group of residents. Calvin Grow reported that the Council is scheduled to approve the proposal and make advisory group appointments at next week’s meeting. Liz Whiting suggested that this undertaking become the third item on each Committee meeting agenda, so that the advisory group members can elect whether to stay or head home when the Committee moves on to other business. Mark McCartney indicated that approximately six years of Smart Trailer reports are readily available; he will forward results for all locations within Country Club Estates, Greenway Farms and Woodlea Manor. Calvin Grow will pull together speed studies and traffic counts and start a chronology of changes

such as opening Meade Drive at S. King, installing the signals there, at Woodlea Manor and at Governors Drive, and opening Bradfield Drive, so that the Committee and advisory group can see what the data teaches us. Liz Whiting also urged the advisory group members to talk with neighbors and tour their neighborhoods to identify problem areas and the nature of the problems. Ann Jones volunteered to contact all the advisory group members after appointment and to arrange an organizational meeting before the next Committee meeting.

11. *Pedestrian crosswalk enforcement at Market Street at Wirt and Liberty Streets:* Mark McCartney reported that no tickets were written for violations, but he doesn't know whether any warnings were given. Committee members noted that it appears that the pedestrians seem to be increasingly hesitant about stepping into the crosswalk at these locations. The Committee felt it was appropriate to forward recommendations for a coordinated marking system for crosswalks, whether uniformly with the imprinted brick look or keeping a "major street" category using something else such as the "wagon wheels" recently painted at E. Market Street and Catoctin Circle. While there was a mixed reaction to both, staff and some Committee members felt the wagon wheels effectively keep motorists from encroaching on the crosswalk. The Committee agreed that the least effective scheme is the white-only striping since so many other traffic features are marked in white. The topic was carried over for future consideration.
12. *Meadowbrook rezoning update:* Nick Colonna indicated that no new plans have been submitted and that the deadline is around Thanksgiving for the applicant being able to file as part of this application. Calvin Grow indicated that staff haven't seen or heard anything about relocating Battlefield Parking away from the Virts Corner alignment.
13. *FY '05 Budget Recommendations:* Calvin Grow reviewed the projects for which the Committee had requested \$190,000 in FY '05 budget funds. The Town Council approved \$45,000. Sandy Kane suggested that the park entry off Kincaid Boulevard could be put off to next year's budget and urged the Committee to continue pushing extending the By-Pass fencing to the south, since staff report the fence already has been cut there since the fencing was extended to the north. The Committee agreed but preferred to commit funding to residential traffic-calming measures and push for the fencing to come from someone else's budget or from mid-year funds. The Committee approved committing funds to the Edwards Ferry Road/Plaza Street design project. They asked for an update from Marantha Edwards at next month's meeting regarding the status of the way-finding signage project with the hope that the timetable will allow enhancing the installation at the entry into the Historic District from the north on N. King Street. Liz Whiting asked the Committee to review the Task Force Report suggestions and appendix of problem areas and earlier budget requests to prompt project suggestions.

Calvin Grow noted that committing funds to any of the projects in the FY '05 budget request wouldn't require further Council approvals, but that any newly-identified projects will.

14. *Planned improvements to SW quadrant roads:* Sandy Kane and Liz Whiting have been in correspondence with a resident complaining that it takes 20 minutes to get from Lawson Road to any of the schools on Evergreen Mill Road. Liz Whiting had asked Calvin Grow to update the Committee on the nature and timing of major changes coming to the SW quadrant. Calvin Grow noted that the Sycolin Road widening has been pushed to FY '09, as has the segment of Battlefield Parkway from E. Market to Kincaid Boulevard and South King Street improvements. Intersection and signal improvements are under construction at Tolbert Lane and Evergreen Mill and a signal will be installed at Hope Parkway and Sycolin in the Summer of 2005. The Town also is seeking gas tax funds from the County to install signals at Sycolin and Lawson Road and Sycolin and Tolbert Lane. Calvin Grow also discussed the improvements to be constructed by the Oaklawn development.
15. *Update of Residential Traffic Management Plan:* Calvin Grow distributed Fairfax County and Arlington County traffic-calming program materials. Liz Whiting suggested that lessons learned from the Meade Drive Neighborhood Master Traffic-Calming Plan project will likely find their way into proposed changes, as well. The Committee felt it was a good time to plan another Arlington field trip.
16. *Committee member concerns:* Richard Nemetz noted "woonerf" among the traffic-calming devices listed in the Arlington County program. Calvin Grow indicated he would inquire and report back to the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, November 1, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.